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RICHARD E. LYNQ

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

RICHARD E. LYNQ was sworn in as the 22nd Secretary of Agriculture March 7, 1986. In his capacity as a member of the President's Cabinet, he supervises the activities of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Lyng is a native of California, born in San Francisco. After attending public schools in Modesto, California he attended the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 1940. During World War II, Lyng spent two and one-half years in the South Pacific with the U.S. Army. He participated in the battles of Guadalcanal and Bougainville.

From 1949 to 1967 he was president of a family seed and bean production and processing company. He was Director of the California State Department of Agriculture in Sacramento from 1967 to 1969, appointed by the then Governor Ronald Reagan.

He was appointed Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1969 and served for four years. From 1973 to 1979, he was President of the American Meat Institute.

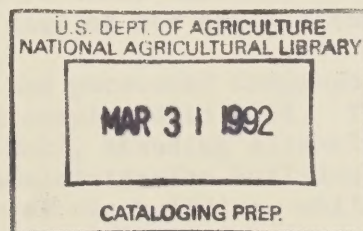
He was appointed Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1981 by President Reagan. He served in that position throughout the first Reagan term.

In March of 1985 he formed, with William Leshner, a Washington-based agricultural consulting firm, Lyng and Leshner, Inc.

Lyng is married to Bethyl Ball. They have two daughters and four grandchildren, and live in Arlington, Virginia.

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March 12, 1986



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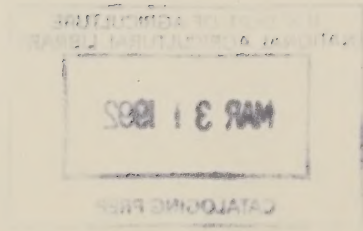
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The Department of Agriculture:
A Historical Note

The U. S. Department of Agriculture was established on May 15, 1862, by a law signed by President Abraham Lincoln. The new Department was "to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of the word." In carrying out his duties, the Commissioner was authorized to conduct experiments, collect statistics, and to collect, test, and distribute new seeds and plants. This law, very broad in scope, has remained the basic authority for the Department to the present time.

Proposals for an agricultural branch of the national government had been made as early as 1776. George Washington recommended the establishment of such an agency in 1796. Elkanah Watson later advocated a related plan, and the Secretary of the Treasury gave the idea support in 1819 by asking consuls and naval officers abroad to send home seeds and improved breeds of domestic animals.

In 1836, Henry L. Ellsworth, Commissioner of Patents, on his own initiative undertook to distribute seeds obtained from abroad to enterprising farmers. Three years later Congress appropriated \$1,000 of Patent Office fees for collecting agricultural statistics, conducting agricultural investigations, and distributing seeds. By 1854, the Agricultural Division of the Patent Office employed a chemist, a botanist, and an entomologist, and was conducting experiments. During this period many farm editors, agricultural leaders, and officers of the numerous county and state agricultural societies continued to urge that agriculture be represented by a separate agency, although many Southern farm leaders were opposed. The United States Agricultural Society assumed leadership of the movement, and its efforts, combined with the pledges of the Republican Party in 1860 for agrarian reforms that would encourage family farms, led to the establishment of the Department.

The first Commissioner of the new Department--it was headed by a Commissioner rather than by a Cabinet-level Secretary until 1889--was a Pennsylvania dairyman Isaac Newton. In his annual report for 1862, Newton outlined a substantial research and information program which set the pattern for specific lines of work within the Department for a number of years. The first experimental crop plots were on Washington's Mall, between the Capitol and the then unfinished Washington Monument. Newton was particularly interested in some imported varieties of wheat. When a sudden thunderstorm threatened the crop late in July 1866, Newton left his office in the basement of the Patent Office Building, now known as the National Portrait Gallery, and ran towards the Mall. He suffered a sunstroke and died of its effects some months later.

Before his death, Newton had persuaded Congress to appropriate \$100,000 for a new building, which was completed in 1868. The building, three stories and of brick, was on the Mall, standing slightly northeast of the central position of the current Administration building. A glass conservatory was attached to the west side of the building, while the grounds were developed as an arboretum. The building remained in use until 1930.

Meanwhile, research work expanded steadily but slowly during the rest of the nineteenth century. Emphasis was upon developing more productive seeds and animals, with some effort to make the nation self sufficient in such commodities as sugar, tea, and silk. Then, in 1897, a new era began with the appointment of James Wilson as Secretary. Wilson, known as "Tama Jim," was to serve as Secretary for 16 years, under four Presidents. He had been director of the Iowa state agricultural experiment station and had served three terms in the United States House of Representatives.

During the 16 years he was in office, Wilson made the Department one of the great research institutions of the world. By 1912, both employees and expenditures were nearly seven times what they had been in 1897. Most of this increase was in research, including farm management, although both farm demonstration and regulatory activities were becoming prominent.

Scientific research in the Department under the leadership of Wilson stressed increases in production on land under cultivation and efficiency in livestock production. For the most part, such research related to plant and animal life, soils, nutrition, and agricultural chemistry.

Wilson organized a number of new bureaus, headed by well-known, aggressive scientists. Many of the bureaus operated as virtually independent organizations, without regard to the activities of other bureaus. The new bureaus included Plant Industry, Entomology, Chemistry, Statistics, Soils, Biological Survey, and Forestry. The Forest Service was established in 1905, after Gifford Pinchot, then head of the Bureau of Forestry, persuaded President Theodore Roosevelt to transfer custody of the national forests from the Department of the Interior to Agriculture.

As the Department expanded from 2,444 employees in 1897 to 13,858 in 1912, Wilson was faced with major problems of finding adequate working space for the staff. In 1902, he asked Congress for \$2,500,000 for the construction of a new building. Congress appropriated only \$1,500,000 in 1903, an amount sufficient to construct the two planned laboratory wings, leaving the main building for a future date. Wilson decided to go ahead with the two wings, feeling that Congress must soon supply the money for the main part of the building. The wings, standing just as they are in 1982, were completed in 1907, but were connected by a wooden walkway for the next 23 years until Congress relented and appropriated the money to finish the building.

Scientific research was of limited value until it was put into use by farmers. The Department and the land-grant colleges entered into formal cooperative agreements, after the passage of the Smith-Lever Agricultural Extension Act in 1914, to carry the results of research in the Department and the state colleges and experiment stations directly to farmers. This work resulted in the establishment of the Cooperative Extension Service, one of the most widely copied abroad of all United States governmental organizations.

The Department's research activities provided a basis for regulatory functions, with the two often carried out in close relationship to each other. The

Bureau of Animal Industry was created in 1884 after outbreaks of contagious animal diseases and the barring of American meat from some European markets focused attention upon the problem of animal plagues. Authority given the Bureau to control the movement of livestock in interstate commerce was the first regulatory activity undertaken. In 1906, the Department was given responsibility for two new laws--the Meat Inspection Act and the Food and Drugs Act. Although responsibility for the Food and Drugs Act was transferred from the Department in 1940, it still carries out meat and poultry inspection and grading.

The development of Federal standards and grades for farm products began with grain and cotton in 1916 in an effort to provide standard regulations for trading purposes and to protect farmers when their products were sold by grade. Since then compulsory standards have been fixed for a number of commodities, while permissive standards have been issued for others. The quality of some fruits and vegetables going to market is controlled through marketing orders and agreements. All grain for export is inspected under authority of the Grain Standards Act of 1976.

In 1921, Congress passed the Packers and Stockyards Act, which prohibits unfair, deceptive, discriminatory, and monopolistic marketing practices, in livestock, poultry, and meat marketing. In addition to market regulation, the Department protects both animals and plants by attempting to stop the importation of foreign pests or diseases. The Department also cooperates with the States and the farmers in controlling diseases and pests within the United States.

Total employment in the Department reached 25,000 in 1918, but declined to about 20,000 in 1920. Nevertheless, this total put great pressure on available office facilities. Congress authorized the construction of the central section of the Administration Building in 1926 and it was completed in 1930. This building, widely praised when completed, is said to be the last Federal office building of classical design to be completed in Washington.

Even as it was appropriating funds to complete the Administration Building, Congress authorized construction of the Cotton Annex on the southeast corner of C and 12 Streets, S.W. This building was planned to eventually be twice the size authorized. It was built in such a fashion that it appears to this day to be one-half of a building.

The South Building was authorized in 1926 and construction was started in 1930. Wings 4 and 5 were completed in 1932, wings 1 and 7 in 1934, wing 6 in 1934, and wings 2 and 3 in 1937. The South Building, when completed, had 4,292 rooms, with a total floor space of 1,335,522 square feet. It was the largest office building in the Nation at that time. The South Building was air conditioned in 1960.

The economic dislocations caused by World War I and declines in farm prices led to an intensification of statistical and economic research that would aid farmers in meeting market needs. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics was established in 1922. The Department also encouraged farmers to organize cooperatives, particularly for marketing their products.

The emphasis upon research, regulation, and marketing in the 1920's was not enough to restore farm incomes in the years after World War I to comparable earlier levels. The depression of the 1920's, culminating in the Great Depression of 1929, led to the New Deal and what has been called "the new Department of Agriculture."

The new Department took shape under the leadership of Secretary Henry A. Wallace, Iowa farm editor, geneticist, and hybrid seed corn breeder, and son of a former Secretary, Henry C. Wallace. When, on May 12, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the new direction was under way. With this law, the Department was assigned, for the first time, responsibility for administering a program providing economic assistance directly to farmers.

The same economic circumstances that led to the passage of the Agricultural Adjustment Act led to programs that emphasized better rural credit facilities, soil conservation, aid for poverty-stricken farmers to acquire farms, and loans for rural electrification. Each of these programs led in turn to a new agency responsible for its administration. In the five years from 1932 to 1937, the staff of the Department increased from 27 thousand to 106 thousand. In both 1950 and 1980 the comparable total was about 85 thousand employees.

Most of the new programs were aimed at farmer welfare and farm production. The depression, however, affected city dwellers as well. Many of them were unable to purchase sufficient food, even though the farmers were told they raised a surplus that could not be marketed profitably. The Department, working with welfare agencies, set up programs for distributing surpluses to the needy in both cities and rural areas, and began to emphasize marketing and distribution as contrasted with the production of farm products. The other side of the distribution program became important during and after World War II, when the War Food Administration, which was part of the Department, allocated scarce foods among our allies, the armed forces, and the civilian population.

After World War II and the Korean War, the Department gave particular attention to marketing problems, and to providing technical assistance to the less developed nations. During the 1960's and 1970's, attention was turned to seeing that every American had sufficient food, with emphasis on the Food Stamp program to enable poorer families to buy needed food. Programs to reach poor rural people were developed, while the problems of commercial agriculture still were given attention.

Emphasis upon different problems and the gradual addition of functions has led to reorganizations of the Department from time to time. During the late 1970's, a number of changes were made to give greater emphasis to programs for the consumer, while in the early 1980's problems of the commercial farmer received attention. The major change in organization, however, since the 1930's came in 1953, when the traditional one assistant secretary of agriculture was replaced by five.

The Department in 1982 is headed by the Secretary of Agriculture, Deputy Secretary, and nine Assistant and Under Secretaries. The agencies of the Department are divided into nine groups, each headed by an Assistant Secretary or an Under Secretary.

In addition, the Office of the General Counsel, the Judicial Office, and the Office of the Inspector General report to the Secretary. The Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, headed by an Assistant Secretary, includes offices for Information, Congressional Affairs, and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The Food and Consumer Services group includes the Food and Nutrition Service, the Human Nutrition Information Service, and the Office of the Consumer Advisor. The Economics group is made up of the Economic Research Service, the Statistical Reporting Service, the Economic Analysis Staff, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Office of Energy, and the Economic Management Staff. The Small Community and Rural Development group includes the Farmers Home Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration, the Office for Rural Development Programs, and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

The Marketing and Inspection Services group is composed of the Agricultural Cooperative Service, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Federal Grain Inspection Service, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the Office of Transportation, and the Packers and Stockyards Administration. The International Affairs and Commodity Programs group includes the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Office of International Cooperation and Development. The group for Natural Resources and Environment consists of the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service. Science and Education includes the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research Service, the Extension Service, and the National Agricultural Library. The Administration group includes the Office of Administrative Systems, the Board of Contract Appeals, the Office of Administration Law Judges, the Office of Finance and Management, the Office of Minority Affairs, the Office of Operations, the Office of Personnel, the Office of Information Resources Management, and the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

The names of agencies and duties assigned, as well as the configurations of agencies reporting to the different assistant and under secretaries, undergo frequent changes. However the basic duties of the Department stay much the same. In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon proposed abolishing the Department of Agriculture, while in 1977, President Jimmy Carter proposed transferring some of its functions to other Departments. Neither happened. Over the years, even as the farm population was declining from half of the total in 1862 to 4 percent today, the Department continued to represent a basic national interest in food and agriculture.--Wayne D. Rasmussen, Economic Research Service, September 1982.

Chronological Listings of the Department's Leaders

Commissioners of Agriculture

	Legal Residence
Isaac Newton..... July 1, 1862-June 19, 1867	Pennsylvania
John W. Stokes..... June 20, 1867-December 4, 1867	Pennsylvania
Horace Capron..... December 4, 1867-July 31, 1871	Illinois
Frederick Watts..... August 1, 1871-June 30, 1877	Pennsylvania
William Gates Le Duc..... July 1, 1877-June 30, 1881	Minnesota
George Bailey Loring..... July 1, 1881-April 3, 1885	Massachusetts
Norman Jay Colman..... April 3, 1885-February 15, 1889	Missouri

Secretaries of Agriculture

Norman Jay Colman..... February 15, 1889-March 6, 1889	Missouri
Jeremiah McLain Rusk..... March 6, 1889-March 6, 1893	Wisconsin
Julius Sterling Morton... March 7, 1893-March 5, 1897	Nebraska
James Wilson..... March 6, 1897-March 5, 1913	Iowa
David Franklin Houston... March 6, 1913-February 2, 1920	Missouri
Edwin Thomas Meredith.... February 2, 1920-March 4, 1921	Iowa
Henry Centwell Wallace... March 5, 1921-October 25, 1924	Iowa
Howard Mason Gore..... November 22, 1924-March 4, 1925	West Virginia
William Marion Jardine... March 5, 1925-March 4, 1929	Kansas
Arthur Mastick Hyde..... March 6, 1929-March 4, 1933	Missouri
Henry Agard Wallace..... March 4, 1933-September 4, 1940	Iowa
Claude Raymond Wickard... September 5, 1940-June 29, 1945	Indiana
Clinton Presba Anderson.. June 30, 1945-May 10, 1948	New Mexico
Charles Franklin Brannan. June 2, 1948-January 20, 1953	Colorado
Ezra Taft Benson..... January 21, 1953-January 20, 1961	Utah
Orville Lothrop Freeman.. January 21, 1961-January 20, 1969	Minnesota
Clifford Morris Hardin... January 21, 1969-November 17, 1971	Nebraska
Earl Lauer Butz..... December 2, 1971-October 4, 1976	Indiana
John Albert Knebel..... November 4, 1976-January 20, 1977	Virginia
Bob Bergland..... January 23, 1977-January 20, 1981	Minnesota
John Rusling Block..... January 23, 1981-	Illinois

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